

CHAPTER IV

WILLIAM HILTON'S LETTER AND DEED.

Plimmoth Bay, N. E.

December 11, 1621.

Louing cousin, at our ariuell at New Plimmoth in New England, we found all our friends and planters in good health, though they were left sicke and weake with very small meanes, the Indians round about us peaceable and friendly the country very pleasant and temperate, yelding naturally, of itself, great store of fruites, as vines of divers sorts in great abundance; there is likewise walnuts, chesnuts, small nuts and plums with much varietie of flowers, roots and herbs no lesse pleasant then wholesome and profitable; no place hath more gooseberries and straw-berries nor better, timber of all sorts you have in England doth cover the Land, that affords beasts of divers sorts and great flocks of Turkies, quailles, Pigeons and Patriges: many great lakes abounding with fish, fowle, bevers and Otters. The sea affords us as great plenty of all excellent sorts of sea-fish, as the rivers and lakes doth varietie of wild fowle of most useful sorts. Vines we find to our thinking, but neither the goodness nor qualitie we know. Better grain cannot be then Indian corn, if we will plant it upon as good ground as a man need desire. We are all free-holders, the rent day doth not trouble us and all these good blessings we have, of which and what we list in their seasons for taking. Our companie are for the most part, very religious honest people; the word of God sincerely taught us every Sabbath: so that I know not any thing a contented mind can here want. I desire your friendly care to send my wife and children to me, where I wish all the friends I have in England, and so I rest,

Your louing kinsman,

WILLIAM HILTON.

This letter was published by Captain John Smith in his "Trials of New England" in London 1622.